Coal dumped at Pitheads

*243. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which ap peared in the *'Hindustan Times'* of the 5th July, 1986, captioned '8m tonne coal dump ed at pitheads; if so, what are ihe details thereof; and

(b) what action Government have taken to move 'he coal from the pitheads?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. The news item refers to the stoppage sale of coal by road certain parties following Income-Tax Department, detection of such sale to fictitious parties through their agents, thereby accumulation cf coal stocks at the pitheads. It also refers to the cancellation of bank drafts by three parties and evasion of Income Tax by coal handling agents etc.

The Central Coalfields Limited have reported in this regard that as a result of advice/attachment order from Income-Tax Deptt. supply $_0$f coal has been suspended for certain specific cases pertaining to 17 persons who had deposited money and taken release order against the • various State sponsorships. The value of such suspended supplies com$_e$ to about Rs. 2 crores.

(b) CCL is making all out efforts to despatch maximum quantity of coal by rail and road to various consumers. CIL have also put certain collieries on liberalised sale of coal from where any person can. purchase upto 500 tonnes of coal without any sponsorship etc.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that stoppage of transport of coal by road has been done following detection by the Income Tax Department of such sale to fictitious parties through their agents which resulted in the accumulation of coal stock at the pitheads. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government are aware of the harassment and hardship faced by the road transporters, poor mechanics labourers, loaders e!c, involved i$_n$ this'industry as they have been thrown out of employment and also the fact of the consequent shortage of coal in the market which is commanding high premium rates? The price of coal has more than doubled. While appreciating the efforts of the CCI to despatch coal through the aforesaid means and all out efforts to despatch maximum quantity of coal by rail and road etc., may I know from the hon. Minister what further steps are proposed to be taken to bring relief to the workers, the consumers and to the industry itself in this regard?

SHRI VASANT SATHE As far as movement of coal is concerned, we are allowing all those who have sponsorship to take coal both by $_r$ail and by road from the collieries. From our side there is no stoppage. We have also, as I said in my reply, mentioned that certain collieries have been notified by us; from there, coal $_c$*a.n* be taken even without sponsorship to th$_e$ extent of 500 tonnes. I can name the collieries; Karanpura, Jharkhand, Jagannath, Pundi Kara Special, Giridih, Saran, Pinjra, Bachra; Karkata... Karkata...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you name all these?

SHRI VASANT SATHE; What I am trying to say is, Sir, this way we are helping the people. After all, how can we help the consumer? This is the way we are helping the consumer by making available the coal liberally to the consumer even without sponsorship to the extent of 500 tonnes from these collieries. The difficulty has arisen because of various recketeering and various fictitious, agents, and we have no way of checking it. If they come with the drafts and try to take the coal, we cannot help unless he Income Tax authorities detected and said; You stop supplying coal to these 1? parties. And the amount is Rs. 2 crores worth of coal; I can give the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't do it now; when somebody puts a supplementary, you can.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: The hon. Minister in his reply has stated the fact of sale to certain fictitious parties operating through their agents and that the CCL had to abandon their order as a result of detection advice/attachment order from the Income-tax Department. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that certain parties even managed to cancel their bank drafts and that the normal practice of verifying the antecedents of the parties purchasing coal from the CCL was not followed by those officers who were said to be in connt-vance with them? If it is so, what action Government proposes to take to ensure proper verification of the antecedents of the parties, to check such corrupt practices aid thereby streamline the entire process and ensure regular movement of coal?

SHRI VASANT SATHE; Sir, as far as the verification of the parties is concerned, there are thousands of agents of those who are being sponsored by various State Governments in Punjab, Haryana, U.P. etc. They send sponsorship. These sponsorers, these parties, name their agents. Bank drafts are given to the CCL. Now, it is impossible for the CCL to verify their antecedents. This can be done either by the Income-tax authorities or by the banks or by somebody else. Coal India Limited or the CCL cannot do it-This is our difficulty, AS long as we have the money, when somebody comes and deposits the money and says 'I am the agent of this sponsoring authority; this is the sponsorer's letter; please give me coal', how can we stop giving coal? This is our problem. Sir, as far as we are concerned, there is no question of any involvement or connivance by the officials of the CCL. But after the Income-tax authorities detected, as I said about these 17 people, we immediately took action and stopped. This is the best that we can do.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL; Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the last year's 'Economic Survey', it was mentioned that the rate of growth in production of coal was not much as the growth in actual despatches. Despatches were said to be of the order of 10 per cent more while the rate of growth in production was 3 per cent or 3 1 per cent. From the Minister's reply, it appears, this year the despatches are not that good. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the rate of growth, actual production of coal during the nrst four months of this year and what is the growth in actual despatches from pitheads?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Off hand, I will not be able !o giv© the rate of growth in the last four months. But despatches grew because we lowered the pithead stock. From 29 million tonnes, we brought it down to 21 million tonnes. That is why, despatches have increased and now, as the pithead stocks have gone down, there may be a problem. But as at present we have no problem, particularly, from our side, either from railhead or pithead, to give coal to the indtistry.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : श्रीमन्, इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट के एडवाइज और अटैचमेंट आर्डर क मातहत जोसी०सी०एल० ने विभिन्न पार्टियों के कोल डिस्पैच को रोका है वह उचित ही प्रतीत होता है । जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने अपने ''बी'' पार्ट में उत्तर दिया है कि मैक्सीमम क्वांटिटी कोल की बहुत शीघ्रता के साथ पिट हेड से डिस्पैच कराने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं तो क्या यह वे बता सकेंगे कि इस एक महीने के अन्दर जब से यह प्रश्न उठाया उससे पेश्तर, तब से कितनी मक्सीमम क्वाटिटी पिट हेड से डिस्पैच की है और जैसा कि उन्होंने चर्चा की है कि 5 सौ टन तक कोई भी ले जा सकता है यह सुविधा दी है तो किन-किन नेशनल पेपर्स में यह उन्होंने प्रकाशित कराया है ? मान्यवर, क्या यह भी बता सकेंगे कि इन्कम टैक्स के आदेश पर जो यह रोका गया है तो उन पार्टीज पर इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट का कब से कितना एरियर बाकी था, अगर जानकारी हो तो ?

श्री वसंत साठे : आखिरी की तो जानकारी मुझे नहीं है कि इन्कम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट

के पास कितना एरियर लेकिन है। यह जो जानकारी हमने दी यह कोई आज की नहीं है करीबन एक साल पहले स हमने यह 5 सौ टन की सुविधा की जानकारी देश के प्राय : सब अखबारों में प्रकाशित की और लोगों को हमने बताया हुआ है ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री ने जो कहा है कि इन्कम टैक्स रेड के चलते जो अटैचमेंट हुआ है, उसके चलते पिट हेड स्टाक इतना है किन्तु उससे जो संबंधित कोयला है, वह एक मिलियन टन से कम है । मैं मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह करूंगा कि यहां प्रश्न उठा 8 मिलियन टन का, आपने जबाब दिया है सिर्फ जिसका संबंध 1 मिलियन टन से कम है, बाकी 7 मिलियन टन के बारे में आपने कुछ नहीं कहा है ।

इस प्रसंग में मैं जानना चाहता हूं चूंकि यह बात सही है कि वहां भ्रष्टाचार बहुत है और देश में कोयला नहीं मिल रहा है, एक तरफ लोग कोयले के लिये भूखे हैं, दूसरी तरफ आपका स्टाक बहुत ज्यादा है। यह आप देखेंगे कि जहां-जहां रोड का प्रोवीजन किया है, वहां ज्यादा उत्पादन हो और वहां से ज्यादा कोयला आपका खोला हुआ जो सेंट्रल डिपो है, उसमें जा सके ।

आपने गिरिडीह की चर्चा की, तो मैं बताऊंगा कि वहां का उत्पादन घट गया है और सेंट्रल डिपो में कोयला नहीं जा पाता है । यह एक प्रधान कारण है इस भ्रष्टाचार के बढ़ने का ।

इसलिये मैं इन दो बिन्दुओं पर मंत्री महोदय से उत्तर चाहूंगा ।

श्री वसंत साठे : सभापति महोदय, यह जो 8 मिलियन टन की बात कही गयी थी, उस रिपोर्ट में, हकीकत यह है कि 7.78 मिलियन टन कोयला इस तरह का हमारे पिट-हैड्स पर जमा है । उसमें से करीबन 5 मिलियन टन यह कोकिंग कोल है जो वाशरीज के माध्यम से स्टील प्लांट्स जो ऐसे उद्योगों को जाता है ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : इन्कम-टैक्स अटैचमेंट में कितना है ?

श्री वसंत साठे : मैंने बताया कि इन्कम टैक्स में जो कोयला है, उसका मूल्य करीबन 2 करोड़ रुपये तक आता है, जो बहुत कम है । एक मिलियन तो बीस करोड़ का होगा । यह बहुत कम है । यह तीन लाख टन है खाली । इसलिये यह इन्कम-टैक्स के अन्दर जो आया, उससे ज्यादा कोई कोयले के स्टाक पर असर नहीं हो रहा है । आज वस्तुस्थिति ऐसी है कि हमारे पास पिट-हैड्स पर रोड से ले जाने के लिये, रेल से ले जाने के लिये इसी एरिया में पर्याप्त मात्रा में कोयला है और हम सब लोगों को दे रहे हैं ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : हमने गिरिडीह का स्पेशल कहा ।

श्री वसंत साठे : एकाध कोई खदान में कम हुआ होगा तो उससे कोई फर्क नहीं होगा ।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, the hon. Minister said that he is trying t° maximise despatches both by rail and road. There is a continuing controversy between the Coal and the rail department blaming each other for the accumulation of stocks at the pitheads. The Railways say, the collieries inflate the indents, while the coalfields say that the railways are supplying wagons where there is no coal. I would like to know whether this controversy has been settled, whether he is getting the wagons as per the requirement of the Coal Ministry, The part (b) of my question is that he has said that 5 million tonnes of coking coal is lying at the washeries. Is it because of the nonsupply of wagons or because of the slow intake of coking coal by the steel plants?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as the second point is concerned, I can say that that is because of the lack of setting up of the Rajarappa and Kerala washeries.

Four years' delay has taken place because the MAMC which is a public sector undertaking has not been able to complete the washery equipmenft and supply-*(Interruptions)*

As far as coal and rail are concerned

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: One Minute. You said that 5 million tonnes of coking coal is lying at the "washeries. I wanted to know why this stock is lying there, why it is not being moved. I did not ask about the delay or commissioning of the plant or about other washeries. That has nothing to do with that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The cokiog coal which has been taken out, which, has to be supplied, has to be first washed. It is because the washeries have not come up that the stocks have increased. Otherwise, the stocks would have been disposed of. Between rail ways and us there, is coordination, we are having regular meetings of our officials and today we have no problems with the railways.

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : माननीय सभापति महोदय, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि कोल इंडिया या सी० सी० एल० में कोयला देने में कोई भ्रष्टाचार नहीं है ।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या उनके ध्यान में ऐसे केसेज आये हैं कि जिनको एक हजार, के हजार या पांच हजार टन मिलता है, जब तक वे एर्जेंट के माध्यम से नहीं आते हैं और किसी एक खास एर्जेंट के माध्यम से नहीं आते हैं, वहां के सेल्स आफिसर्स वे-ब्रिज हैं, वह कोयला देते ही नहीं ? इसलिये एजेण्ट्स की आप बड़ी है जिनकी कि वहां अधिकारियों से सांठगांठ है और जब एजेण्ट आते हैं, तभी कोयले की डिलीवरी होती है, रियल पार्टीज को नहीं होती है । ऐसी कुछ कम्प्लेंट्स मंत्री महोदय को आई हैं और उनको दूर करने के लिये मन्त्री महोदय कोल इंडिया और सी० सी०एल० के अधिकारियों को किस प्रकार से ठीक करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं ?

श्री बंसत साठे : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ऐसी तो कोई कम्प्लेंट्स हमारे पास आई नहीं है । मैंने जैसे शुरू में कहा कि हजारों एर्जेंट्स देश में काम कर रहे हैं उस एरिया में जो विभिन्न राज्यों के उनके मातहत कोयला लेने के लिए स्पोंसर होते हैं । तो एर्जेंट्स ही आते हैं और वही ड्राफ्टस लेकर आते हैं और उसके बिना कोयला किसी को नहीं दे सकते हैं । इसलिये जहां तक कोल इंडिया का सवाल है हमारे पास इस तरह का कोई शिकायत नहीं है । मैं यह दावा नहीं कर सकता कि ऐसी कोई सांठ-गांठ की बात हो ही नहीं सकती है । लेकिन अगर कोई ऐसी शिकायत आयेगी तो उस पर जरूर कार्यवाही करेंगे ।

SHRI JASWANT SINGH; Mr. Chairman, we are discussing one aspect of the problem of the CCL or Coal India which is pithead accumulation. There are other aspects like distribution difficulties production difficulties. The hon. Minister in a signed article in a leading daily today has recommended under his own name that all these difficulties arise primarily from the theory of a public sector. Would, therefore the hon. Minister stand by his conviction and recommend de-nationalisation of Coal India. ..?

MR. CHAIRMAN; Not relevant Next question.

अनौपचारिक सलाहकार समितियां

*244. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव** : क्या **संचार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राज्यों में अनौपचारिक सलाहकार समितियों के विफल रहने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान बिहार मंडल में अनौपचारिक सलाहकार समिति की कितनी बैठकें हुईं औ ऐसी प्रत्येक बैठक में इस समिति में कार्यरत कितने संस सदस्य उपस्थित हुए;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि विभाग बैठकों की तारीख निश्चित नहीं करता और उनके लिये समय पर चनायें भी नहीं भेजता; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार इ समितियों को सक्रिय बनाने के लिये कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?